

ABSTRACT

A video recording system is responsive to an automotive controls system. The video recording system includes a video camera, capable of capturing either still photos or video footage. The video camera may be integral to the interior of a vehicle, for example in a navigation unit, or may be coupled to a detachable electronic device like a cellular telephone.

5 The video recording system communicates with the controls system by either hard wire link or wireless link. The controls system includes one or more sensors capable of detecting when a collision has occurred. One such sensor is an airbag deployment sensor. When the controls system detects that a collision has occurred, it sends an actuation signal to the video recording

10 system, thereby causing the video recording system to begin capturing either photos or video footage. This video footage may then be stored locally or transmitted to a remote server. In one application, the video footage may be used by emergency personnel to determine the conditions inside the vehicle immediately following an accident.